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470

Mr. FIELD CROPS PRODUCER...

It Pays To Use Chemicals Safely

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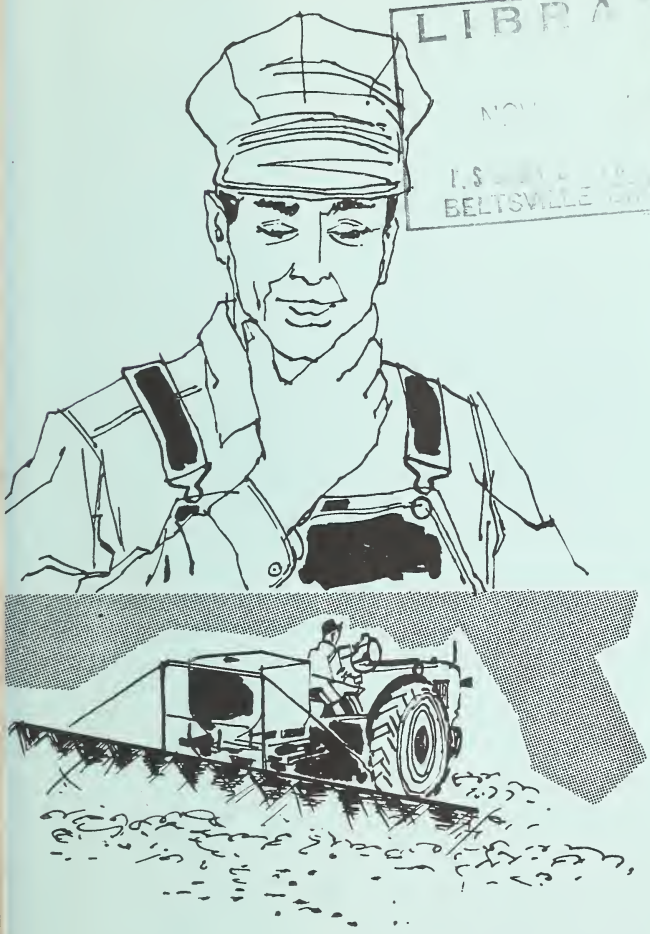

Leaflet No. 470
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MR. FIELD CROPS PRODUCER

It Pays To Use

As a modern farmer, you count on pesticides—insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, nematocides, defoliants, and other farm chemicals—to aid in your operations. These chemicals benefit both you and your customers by helping to assure the high quality—and adequate quantity—of the Nation's food and feed supplies.

It's up to you to use farm chemicals safely and effectively.

Chemicals Cut Costs

Chemicals cut costs by reducing losses and by increasing production efficiency.

Without a protective spray or dust, a growing crop can be wiped out by insects or disease. Even a crop in storage often is not safe without protective chemicals.

By using chemical weed killers you can sometimes eliminate the need for more costly farming operations, such as hand hoeing of cotton or cultivation of corn.

Pennies spent for chemicals to treat seed of corn, sorghum, cotton, and wheat, and other small grains can return dollars in increased yields. Seed treatment helps you get a good stand quickly; it often saves costly replanting.

Chemicals Preserve Quality

Weeds, insects, nematodes, and diseases can reduce crop quality as well as yield. Chemicals help you preserve quality by controlling these pests and diseases.

Among the hazards to crop quality that can be conquered by chemicals are: Weevils that infest stored grains; rats and mice that contaminate many harvested crops; and the many

pests and diseases that can prevent crops from reaching maturity or cause rots. Herbicides, used to control garlic, can eliminate odors from milk and small grains.

It's Up To You

More than 300 chemicals are used today to control pests and diseases. Improper use of some of them can result in excessive residues on crops grown for food or feed. Some pesticides that present no problems if applied to a crop intended for one purpose may make the crop unfit for other purposes.

It's up to you as a crop producer to guard against excessive residues by applying chemicals properly—according to directions on the label.

The Nation's laws require that labels on pesticides give specific instructions for their safe and effective use.

One of the laws requires that all pesticides shipped interstate must be registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and must carry approved labels.

Another law authorizes the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to set a safe limit—called a "tolerance"—on the amount of any pesticide residue that may remain on the crop at harvest. If any residue exceeds the "tolerance," the crop is illegal for interstate shipment.

Read the label carefully, follow only the directions that apply to your operations, and your crop will not have too much pesticide residue.

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FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES

1. Use farm chemicals only on crops for which they are specifically recommended.
2. Use only amounts recommended. It's costly to use more—and may be unsafe if the crop is to be used for food or feed.
3. Apply chemicals at times specified on the label. Observe recommended intervals between treatment and harvest of crops for food or feed.
4. Use only recommended methods of application.
5. Guard against drift of sprays or dusts.
6. Carefully observe label precautions—to protect those who apply chemicals—to prevent harmful residues on food and feed crops.

Failure to observe these rules may result in crops that are illegal for interstate shipment because of *excessive* residue.

Always read and follow instructions on the label.

If in doubt consult your County Agricultural Agent.

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